THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) At present, of the Central Sector power generating companies, the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) supplies power directly to bulk consumers within its area and by arrangement with the State Electricity Boards to such consumers even outside its area. The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has entered into a similar arrangement with the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board (UPSEB) for direct supply of power from NTPC's gas based plant at Auraiya in U.P. to GAIL. Therefore, there are, no adverse implications for the SEBs concerned.

In addition, after careful consideration, Government has also agreed, in principle, to allow direct sale of power by Central Power Generating Companies to the Railways, in relation to the unallocated central share (15%) of power from the central stations.

(c) State Government have been advised to undertake measures such as rationalised tariff, regular payment of rural electrification subsidy, improvement in Plant Load Factor, reduction in T&D losses, etc., to improve the finances of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and to reduce their losses. The conference of the Power Ministers held on 8th and 9th January, 1993, also discussed the ways and means to improve the performance of SEBs, both in physical and financial terms, and has adopted an Action Plan which includes, inter-alia, liquidation of arrears of subsidy in a phased manner, reduction in outstanding dues, tariff rationalisation, fixation of minimum agricultural tariff, supply of electricity on metered basis, etc.

Setting up a Lignite based Power Project in Gujarat

1537. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israel's 'Esienberg' Company has offered to put up a 250 MW lignite-based power project in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has accepted the offer;

(c) what is the total investment to be made on the project;

(d) whether the location of the power unit has been decided;

(e) if so, by when the project is likely to be set up; and

(f) to what extent it will be helpful in meeting the power shortage in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Gujarat has accepted the proposal 'in principle'.

(c) The Project cost has not been indicated by the promoters so far.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The Project is likely to be completed in about 4 years from the date of placement of order for main plant and equipment.

(f) To the extent of 250 MW.

Resource Crunch Faced by NTPC

1538. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC is facing resource crunch;

(b) if so, what is the additional fund estimated to be required by the NTPC;

(c) whether Government have extended the financial help in time to enable the NTPC to go ahead with the on-going project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) For new projects of the National Thermal Power Corpn. (NTPC) fund availability is a constraint due to non-payment of dues by State Electricity Boards (SEBs).

The currently anticipated outlay during the 8th Plan is Rs. 12,938.78 crores and the resource gap after taking into account multinational/bilateral external funding, external commercial borrowing and internal resources, is estimated to be Rs. 5,335.73 crores.

(c) Government has been providing Gross Budgetory Support to NTPC for implementation of the on-going projects. Besides, Government has also been recovering the over dues of SEBs to NTPC from the central plan assistance, and providing to NTPC.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

Grants for Power Supply to the Farmers in Gujarat

1539. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide grants for the supply of power to the farmers in Gujarat for operating their irrigation pumps;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have fixed any targets in this regard during the year 1993-94; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Union Government to provide grants for supply of Power to the farmers in Gujarat for operating their irrigation pumpsets.

Committee on Incearsing Electricity Rates

1540. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a committee to give suggestions on increasing the rates of electricity in various States and to allow private sector to participate in the functioning of the State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the committee and what are the suggestions made by the Committee;

(c) whether Government propose to implement these suggestions in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat; and

(d) by when the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Planning Commission has notified NDC Committee on Power on 3-6-1993 to suggest measures to improve the health of State Electricity Boards inter alia by tariff changes. Private participation in generation & distribution is permitted at present and some SEBs are taking advantage of this.

(b) The terms of reference of the Committee are as under:—

(i) to review the factors which have contributed to technical and managerial inefficiencies of the power utilities in the State leading to increased costs and inefficiencies in the supply of electricity to different categories of consumers and recommend measures to minimise the unit cost of electricity supply to consumers;

(ii) to review the electricity tariff structure in the States and recommend a set of national norms for implementation to make the state power utilities economically viable and enable them to generate adequate internal resources for financing their future capital expansion programmes for meeting the increasing demand for electricity in different parts of the country;

(iii) to review the institutional and financial structure of the State power utilities and recommend necessary changes including, inter-alia, the need to delink distribution from generation and the need to involve the consumers in the